

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DENTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Denton Fire Department for their nominations of their department employees. For 130 years this fire department has fought to save the lives of citizens of the Denton area. This fire department has 122 firefighters and officers, eight 911 dispatchers, and one RSVP volunteer. It is not the equipment in these stations that makes Denton a safer place; it is the personnel that are hard at work to keep this community safe.

The philosophy of the fire department is that prevention is key to reducing the fire loss of our city. This department is able to maintain its high standards by acting towards arising situations and regulations. These firefighters take a proactive approach of educating citizens about fire safety and life safety through CPR classes and first aid classes. Even with programs in place, the Denton Fire Department strives to continue improvement in the quality of service provided to citizens by aggressively training officers in all areas of expertise. All of our fire department's continuing education programs exceed requirements suggested by the Texas Department of Health. This is proof that our firefighters are above average.

The individuals who work at the Denton County Fire Department are to be commended for their achievements in this past year. Without dedicated individuals the Denton County Fire Department would not serve at the high level it does. Brad Fuller, Brad Lahart, and Mike Tucker received Meritorious Service awards for their hard work and dedication of going beyond the normal job requirements to serve the Denton area. Also, Tim Tarlton's Crew at Station 3 "B" Shift has been awarded the Community Service Award for their methods of getting the message to children about fire safety in public schools. Likewise, Lisa Parker, who serves the Denton Fire Department with a cheerful personality and a positive attitude, has been awarded the EMS Excellence award. Furthermore, Jeff Knoles has been awarded special recognition for serving the Denton community in dual roles as a firefighter and paramedic since 1999.

The fire administration provides the leadership, vision and resources that our personnel need to provide the highest quality service to our citizens. The city staff and fire department employees coordinate efforts to maintain the quality of safety necessary for a city of Denton's size.

Firefighters are a necessary part of public life. Like in any other part of life, there are those who deserve special recognition. The individuals honored here today are some of those individuals.

CONGRATULATING THE EXPORT- IMPORT BANK ON ITS 70TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to help observe a landmark anniversary for an institution that sustains the jobs of thousands of Americans. February 12, 2004, marked the 70th anniversary of the Export-Import Bank, the official export credit agency of the United States. The Bank will have a celebration of this anniversary in the near future. The Export-Import Bank is an independent U.S. Government agency that creates and sustains American jobs by providing direct loans to buyers of U.S. exports, guarantees to commercial loans to buyers of U.S. products, and insurance products which greatly benefit short-term small business sales.

In an ideal world, export contracts would be won or lost on the basis of the cost and quality of the products being sold. However, as long as foreign export credit agencies provide concessionary financing to companies from their countries, the Export-Import Bank of the United States must "level the playing field" by protecting American exporters. The Export-Import Bank fills the necessary role of creating and sustaining American jobs here in the United States, where they are sorely needed.

Since its founding in 1934, the Export-Import Bank has supported over \$330 billion of U.S. exports from businesses large and small. In FY 2003, it supported \$14.3 billion in exports. Currently, about 85 percent of Export-Import transactions directly benefit small businesses. This amounts to almost 20 percent of the Bank's financings.

The Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act was signed into law on June 14, 2002 (Public Law No. 107-189). This Act reauthorized the Export-Import Bank through 2006 and made other appropriate changes to the charter of the Bank. The House Financial Services Committee continues to conduct oversight over the implementation of this Act.

Again, I extend my congratulations to the Export-Import Bank on its 70th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIVITY OF OUR SAVIOR CHURCH IN POR- TAGE, IN, DURING THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate the Nativity of Our Savior Church in Portage, IN, as they celebrate their 40th anniversary. During the weekend of September 11,

2004, and September 12, 2004, the Nativity of Our Savior Church will be celebrating their anniversary with an Anniversary Celebration Mass and an All-Parish Anniversary Celebration Family Picnic.

The Catholic faith began in Portage in the 1600's with early settlers and French trappers, and they named the area "New France." In 1882, Joseph Bailly, one of those early settlers, established a trading post which he called "Bailly-Town." This area included a chapel for his family as well as other nearby villagers to worship in. During the early 1960's, the Diocese of Gary purchased the land that is now the Nativity Parish and School.

As the population grew in Portage, Bishop Andrew Grutka along with other parish members, established a larger church, which was called "The Chapel on the Mall" because it was located at the north end of the Portage Shopping Mall. In 1964, this 10' by 50' drive-in church was visited by over 450 cars at each Sunday mass. It was in July 1965 that the Nativity of Our Savior Church was officially established with Father Joseph Till as its first pastor. On October 31, 1965, during the Feast of Christ the King, Nativity of Our Savior became a permanent church and it was formally dedicated by Bishop Grutka on Saturday, March 12, 1966.

In September 1975, the Nativity School opened its doors to 95 students in its first year. Since the founding of the Nativity of Our Savior Church in 1964 and the opening of the school in 1975, there have been many influential pastors who have led the congregation. These include: Father Joseph Till, Father William Spranger, Monsignor Carl Mengeling, Monsignor John Morales, Father John Scott, Father Patrick Kalich, and currently Father Walter Rakoczy. Today, the Nativity of Our Savior Church has over 2,200 registered families, over 200 students in their parish school, and over 600 students in their religious education program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Nativity of Our Savior Church on their 40th anniversary. They have provided support and guidance for all those in the Portage community, and will continue to serve their community through their selfless dedication and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO ELBIE J. HICKAMBOTTOM, SR.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of Elbie J. Hickambottom, Sr., who passed away on the evening of December 31, 2003.

Elbie Hickambottom began his life in Okmulgee, OK, in 1924. In 1925 his family

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